

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management**

**Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

**December 3, 2014**

**Situational Awareness Report  
Ebola Monitoring Activities**



# **Situational Awareness Report: Ebola Monitoring**

December 3, 2014

Report Number 5

## **Current Confirmed Cases**

<b>Massachusetts:</b>	There are 0 confirmed cases in Massachusetts
<b>New England:</b>	There are 0 confirmed cases in New England
<b>National:</b>	There are 0 confirmed cases in the U.S.
<b>International:</b>	The disease continues to affect the populations of Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. CDC recently added Mali to the list of affected countries. As of December 2 <sup>nd</sup> the WHO reports: Total Cases: 16899; Laboratory-Confirmed Cases: 10553; Total Deaths: 5987

While there are no cases of Ebola in Massachusetts, and the risk remains extremely low, one of our most important responsibilities for the Commonwealth is preparedness.

Massachusetts continues to prepare for the low, but present risk of Ebola based on facts, science and guidance from experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), working with our partner agencies, have held numerous briefings with media and the Legislature, conducted conference calls with nearly 5,000 health, public safety and emergency management personnel, and used the state alert network and social media to reach tens of thousands of residents across the Commonwealth to educate them about Ebola.

## **Massachusetts Ebola Unified Command:**

- Several workgroups were established several weeks ago to coordinate planning efforts by MDPH and MEMA. These workgroups will continue to meet as needed throughout our planning efforts.
  - **Public Safety Leadership**
  - **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
  - **Training**
  - **Transportation**
  - **Legal Working Group**
  - **Law Enforcement Regional Response Working Group**

**Department of Public Health:**

MDPH continues to work with the eight hospitals in the collaborative system that will serve as the treatment centers for any Ebola cases that present. A CDC Rapid Ebola Preparedness Team is in Massachusetts this week and will work together with MDPH and the collaborative hospitals to assist with healthcare system preparedness and planning. The CDC Team will conduct site visits with Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital, University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center and Baystate Medical Center. The visits focus upon:

- Infection control
- Ebola virus control and infectious diseases
- Laboratory science
- Personal protective equipment
- Hospital epidemiology
- Workplace safety

MDPH is planning a follow up meeting with the hospital collaborative in mid-December to review the visit, discuss action items and additional needs.

Commissioner Bartlett has conducted site visits at Massachusetts General Hospital, Baystate Medical Center, and Boston Children's Hospital. A site visit is planned on December 11 to Boston Medical Center. Additional visits to the remaining collaborative hospitals will be planned in December and early January.

MDPH issued a survey to all MA hospitals on November 19<sup>th</sup> to assess the ability of Emergency Department staff to identify, isolate and take the initial steps for diagnosis. 58 responses have been received to date. Follow up is underway. A report of findings and action items will be prepared.

- Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM)
  - On December 2<sup>nd</sup> OPEM hosted the weekly Ebola update call for public health, healthcare, public safety, colleges and universities, community health centers, EMS and other partners. 255 lines were in use.
  - OPEM continues to receive questions via its email address, [AskEbola@state.ma.us](mailto:AskEbola@state.ma.us). People are being encouraged to continue to submit questions they may have on Ebola, report PPE shortages or concerns or any other issues related to Ebola. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, nearly 100 messages have been received and responded to.
- Bureau of Infectious Disease (BID)
  - The State Epi-on-Call is available to assist with any specific questions pertaining to follow-up with individuals identified as at risk for developing Ebola virus disease and guidance regarding isolation and quarantine as indicated.

- For assistance in assessing whether an individual meets the criteria for a suspect case of Ebola individuals are asked to call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-983-6800 (24/7 Epi-on-Call line).
  - During the past week, 7 calls were received pertaining to Ebola.
- Staff from BID will be attending the following meetings and presenting on Ebola during the coming week.
  - Boston University undergraduate public health class
  - Friends of Brookline Public Health/MRC/CERT meeting
- Hinton State Laboratory Institute
  - On December 18<sup>th</sup> a *Packaging & Shipping: Division 6.2 Hazardous Materials* course will be conducted for hospital personnel. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 18 out of 40 hospitals, a total of 33 individuals, have registered for the course.
  - There are currently 42 city, county and state public health laboratories within the U.S. that are capable of performing the Ebola test including the MDPH William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute.

### **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

MEMA continues to be actively engaged with public safety partners on various Ebola preparedness activities.

MEMA continues to work with the Law Enforcement Regional Response Working Group to finalize a Plan for regional law enforcement response to individuals who have or are suspected to have Ebola and require law enforcement intervention. Under the draft Plan that is under review by the Working Group, the Department of Fire Services (DFS) will provide training in the use of PPE to the State Police and police officers assigned to regional emergency response teams, and caches of PPE for the trained officers will be stored on DFS's regional hazardous materials response trucks. Hazardous materials response teams will deliver the PPE to a scene and supervise the donning and doffing of the PPE. DFS will supply the PPE to the regional caches using state homeland security funds repurposed to it by MEMA and EOPSS.

First responders are reminded that when conducting an initial assessment of a person who has a travel history or symptoms that raise a concern about whether the person may have Ebola, the on scene personnel (police, fire or EMS) should immediately contact the MDPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800 and public health personnel will assess whether the individual meets the criteria for consideration as a suspect case of Ebola. Additionally, on-scene personnel may request assistance by calling the MEMA Communications Center at 508-820-2000.

MEMA continues to post information for the public safety community about Ebola on its website at [www.mass.gov/MEMA](http://www.mass.gov/MEMA). Public safety personnel should check the website on a regular basis for informational bulletins, advisories, and guidance on managing suspected or diagnosed cases of Ebola.

**Upcoming Activities:**

- The next weekly statewide Ebola update call will be held during the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>. Once a day and time is confirmed it will be announced via the HHAN listservs.

**State Guidance Issued:**

MDPH has provided translations for the Ebola Information for Persons in Home Quarantine and the Template Letter to Ebola Contact. The links below will take you to the translated materials.

- Ebola Information for Persons in Home Quarantine
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Portuguese](#)
  - [Haitian Creole](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
  - [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)
  - [French](#)
- Template Letter to Ebola Contact
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Portuguese](#)
  - [Haitian Creole](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
  - [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)
  - [French](#)

**For further information please go to:**

- MDPH: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/ebola>
- MEMA: <http://www.mass.gov/mema>
- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html>
- WHO: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>
- USDOT: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/transporting-infectious-substances>